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THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society

Berkeley, California

Volume 75

Number 7

July/August 1993

GGAS CELEBRATES THE FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

On Friday, May 7, Golden Gate Audubon began celebrating International Migratory Bird Day with a big thank you from the East Bay Regional Park District. Over 40 people attended the noon hour event which took place under sunny skies at the Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline, a designated site of the Western Hemisphere International Shorebird Reserve Network.

Doug Siden, director of EBRPD, was master of ceremonies and graciously accepted a \$10,000 check from Steve Margolin, president of GGAS. The money was for the purchase and restoration of Marathon property, a prime wetland habitat located along the Hayward shoreline. Thanks to GGAS the EBRPD will now be able to protect and restore the area for thousands of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. Guest speakers at the event also included Pat O'Brien, general manager of the EBRPD, Michael Sweeney, Mayor of Hayward, and Glenn Olson, National Audubon Western Regional Vice-President. After many words of thanks and inspiration for protecting migratory bird habitat, the event was concluded with an array of refreshments and a guided nature walk at Arrowhead Marsh.

On Saturday, May 8, the celebration continued. The day began with five birding trips around San Francisco. Birders welcomed spring migrants and bid farewell to winter birds at the Presidio, Seal Rock/Land's End, Golden Gate Park, Lake Merced and Glen Canyon Park.

At noon, birders joined nearly 50 others at the celebratory events at the Fire House at Fort Mason. The Fire House was a colorful display of over 30 pieces of beautiful artwork available for bid in the silent auction. From exquisitely detailed pencil drawings of birds to painstakingly hand carved furniture, there was art for everyone. Bountiful tables of fruit, cheese, bread and decadent desserts satisfied hunger, as an assortment of fine wines and teas satisfied the palate.

At the close of the auction more than \$1,000 was contributed to GGAS Audubon Adventures and to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory joint venture Neotropical Bird Monitoring program for Mexican biologists.

GGAS was instrumental in having May 8 declared California Migratory Bird Day. In recognition of our efforts, Boyd Gibbons, director of the California Dept.

of Fish and Game presented a framed original proclamation signed by the Governor to GGAS. The proclamation is reproduced on the page opposite. Guest remarks were also made by GGAS President Steve Margolin, and Paula Kleintjes, Conservation Chairman. They spoke about the importance of neotropical migrants, the need for their protection and how individuals can personally help protect the more than 300 species of migrants that pass through California each year.

Displays at the event included books, education materials from GGAS and PRBO as well as information on neotropical migrants. The National Audubon Society's Richardson Bay Center also has a naturalist on hand to display skins and answer questions about birds.

A signed copy of the book *Birds in Jeopardy* by Paul Ehrlich, David Dobkin and Darryl Wheye was also available in a raffle drawing and was won by Bill Kent of San Francisco.

The event was concluded by an excellent slide presentation on the Mexico monitoring training program by Sophie Webb, well known PRBO artist and biologist. The show included colorful slides of neotropical birds and training methods as well as a strong message for the protection of both neotropical migrants and resident birds of Mexico.

Both days of celebration were met with much success but not without the efforts of many. Special thanks go to: Arthur Feinstein, Steve Margolin, Debey Zito (DZ), Terry Schmitt (TS), Mike Healy,

Alan Hopkins (AH), Carol Opatow, Donna Lion, Paula Kleintjes, Lina Prairie, Sophie Webb (SW), PRBO, NAS Richardson Bay, Glenn Olson, Doug Siden, Rosemary Tameron, Boyd Gibbons, Lisa O.; trip leaders AH, J. Andersen, ML Rosegay, A. Ridley, S. Cox, D. Singer; artists: DZ, TS, AH, SW, J. Alland, D. Alosi, D. Beall, K. Hansen, MG Blake, TA Blake, CB Cotts, M. Hambleton, S. Hambleton, MJ Koch, R. Lazo, A. Levin, D. Oropallo, A. Rivetta, W. Sullivan, D. Wheye, J. Wild; refreshments: The French Laundry, Freemark Abbey Winery, Greens at Fort Mason, Real Food Co., Semifreddies Bakery and the numerous others who contributed time and effort to the events.

—PAULA KLEINTJES

ON SAFARI WITH GGAS IN 1994

Park East Tours, a well-known and respected travel firm that specializes in trips to Africa has joined with GGAS to offer a 17-day trip to Kenya next summer. We will visit some of the best birding and wildlife viewing areas of Kenya. Our itinerary, which goes far beyond the usual tourist areas, is designed to cover a wide range of habitats: savannah, coastal woodland, beach, mangrove swamps, fresh water swamps, dry woodland, mountain, forest and lake. You can expect to see 300 to 400 species of birds on your safari. In some of the areas you'll visit,

(continued on page 120)

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$10 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$20 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 15, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA



A PROCLAMATION
by the
Governor of the State of California

WHEREAS, more than 330 species of birds breed in North America, coming from nesting areas as far away as the tundras and forests of Alaska and Canada, and migrate south to as far as Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, California supports over 300 species of migratory shorebirds, landbirds, raptors, and waterfowl; and

WHEREAS, many of California's native birds are in decline as a result of habitat degradation in California and their wintering habitats in Central America, South America and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, the Natural Community Conservation Planning program offers long-term planning and protection of multiple threatened species by anticipating their needs before they become endangered, and promotes cooperation among all interested parties in the planning of development and growth in areas of important habitat; and

WHEREAS, a new conservation initiative, the "Partners in Flight - Aves de las Americas," is a voluntary, cooperative program linking university, governmental, and private organizations in North, Central, and South America; and

WHEREAS, this program is part of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Program initiated in 1990 by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and

WHEREAS, California established a Partners in Flight Chapter with broad support from state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, and private groups;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PETE WILSON, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim May 8, 1993 as California Migratory Bird Day in California and encourage individuals and organizations throughout our State to participate in activities dedicated to the conservation of all migratory birds.

FURTHER, I urge our citizens to recognize the California Partners in Flight Chapter and its cooperative efforts to protect migratory birds.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Great Seal of the State of
California to be affixed this 23rd day of
April 1993.

Pete Wilson
Governor of California

ATTEST:
Mark Fong Eu
Secretary of State



FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, July 3—Chimney Rock, Point Reyes National Seashore. Leader: Russ Wilson (510) 524-2399.

For details see *The GULL* for June.

Saturday–Sunday, July 31–Aug. 1—Yosemite Alpine Ecology. “Best wildflower show in the whole Sierra.” That’s what David Gaines used to say about the walk down Lundy Canyon from the crest of the Sierra near Yosemite National Park, and that is our destination on Saturday, July 31. This is an area that very few people ever see, and because of the popularity of the trip, it is by reservation only.

We will carpool to the trailhead on Saturday after leaving some cars at the end of the trail near Lundy Lake. Volunteers for this car shuttle will be greatly appreciated, since no one will want to walk back up the 3,000+ feet in elevation that we have just descended. Considering the hike will be mostly downhill for 5 to 6 miles, it is very important that all participants be in good physical shape and used to high elevation hiking, as the trail will be steep and somewhat difficult at times. At the end of the day you might find getting together for dinner in Lee Vining more appealing than returning to a campstove.

Sunday we will go to a different location, yet to be selected, and should be finished by 2:00–3:00 p.m. to allow for return to the Bay Area at a reasonable hour. Each day you should bring lunch, ample liquids, hat, water repellent jacket, sun lotion, mosquito repellent, and good walking shoes or boots with treaded soles (no smooth soled tennis shoes). The emphasis both days will be on general High Sierra ecology, not just birds.

County and Forest Service campgrounds are located between Tioga Pass and Lee Vining off Hwy. 120 (4 to 6

miles west of Hwy. 395), as well as Tuolumne Meadows Campground in Yosemite. Motels in Lee Vining include Best Western Lakeview Lodge (619/647-6543), Gateway Motel (619/647-6467), and Murphey’s Motel (619/647-6316). For trip reservation and meeting details call—Leader: George Peyton (510/444-3131 weekdays). \$(✓)

Thursday–Sunday, August 12–15—Backpacking trip in Lassen Volcanic National Park. We will backpack in three miles to Snag Lake and spend three nights in primitive camping by a stream near a large meadow. We should see a mixed flock of warblers and other songbirds that summer in Lassen, resident birds of the mountains, bald eagles, and perhaps some migrating shorebirds. We will be in beautiful country! Everyone will be responsible for his/her own gear and food, although some cooperative meals may be arranged. This trip is limited to 12 people. For details call David Rice (510) 527-7210. Leaders: David Rice and Robin Pulich. \$(✓).

Saturday, September 4—Coastal San Francisco. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot between South and Middle Lakes (Chain of Lakes) near the 41st Ave. and Lincoln Way entrance to Golden Gate Park. We will bird in the park, Lake Merced, and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in search of warblers, flycatchers and vagrants. Bring your lunch and be prepared for cold weather near the coast. Leader: Dan Murphy (415) 564-0074. (✓)

Wednesday, September 8—Mini-trip to Alameda south shore and surrounding areas. Meet at 9 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Dr. We will be looking for shorebirds and waterfowl. Bring lunch and a scope if you have one. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks and other sites that require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked (✓). See below.

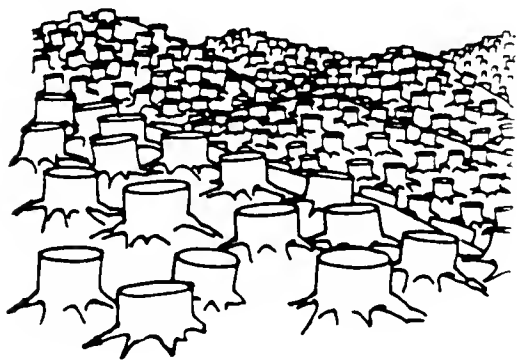
Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Russ Wilson, Field Trips Committee Chmn. (510) 524-2399.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

POINT PINOLE SHORELINE ENCROACHMENT

A proposal to build office buildings on eight acres of shoreline wildlife habitat on Point Pinole is being considered by the City of Richmond. The proposal, which also would allow full industrialization of 60 acres which currently are used for both industry and recreation, is being contested by the East Bay Regional Park District because of damaging effects (wildlife depletion and contamination of water sources) the project would have on the Park District's Point Pinole Regional Shoreline. Someone is needed to help protect the Shoreline by raising objections to the proposal at key planning sessions. If this person is you, please call the GGAS office, (510) 843-2222.

EXTREMISTS DID THIS:



MAY OBSERVATIONS

Perhaps last year was a spoiler for vagrants in the month of May, but this year has been as slow as the proverbial molasses and in truth the almost-January-like weather may have had something to do with the situation. It's now June, it's still cold and it continues to rain and snow. The first trickle of migrants arrived as expected, but overall migration appears to be later than normal and nesting likewise—last year my backyard towhees had fledged their first young in mid-April; this year there were no squeaks and peeps until early June. All of which may be generalizing from too few particulars, but nonetheless, spring's been slow.

The spring seas, however, have been true to form—not fit for sailing—but one deep-water pelagic managed to reach deep water on May 10, reporting back with Black-footed (65) and Laysan Albatross, **nine Murphy's Petrels**, Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Leach's (45) and Ashy Storm-Petrels, Red Phalaropes (1500), Pomarine (50), Parasitic and Long-tailed Jaeger, South Polar Skua, Sabine's Gull (55), Xantus, Murrelet and Tufted Puffin (BHi, THK). Another boat that reached the Cordell Bank on the 23rd had fifty Black-footed and one Laysan Albatross (WEH fide RS). An amazed birder at Limantour Beach at Point Reyes early in the month looked up in time to see a Laysan Albatross pass over (TH fide RS) and a Black-footed Albatross passed by Pigeon Point on the 12th (BS fide RSTh). Disturbingly, two Black-footed Albatross and a **Parakeet Auklet** were found dead on Drakes Beach at the end of the month (SA, JM). A **Magnificent Frigatebird** was reported from SE Farallon on the 20th (fide KH) and another, possibly the same bird, was seen near Pescadero the following day (RM, MM).

Up to two Little Blue Herons continue to be seen at Alviso (SRo, PJM, mob). There were six Old-squaws reported, including three at Drake's Beach on the 9th (DDeS). Lesser Golden Plovers were last reported on the 2nd (JM, RSTh). Three widely-spaced Solitary Sandpipers, Redding (BY), Inverness (RS, mob) and Princeton (RSTh); two Ruffs, Alviso (SRo, AME) and Lemoore (SBT); a **Hudsonian Godwit** at Lower Klamath NWR (BW); and Semi palmated Sandpipers in breeding plumage (Not to ridicule the niceties of plumage, but there's brown and then there's brown!) at Point Reyes (SBT) and Mountain View (JMcK) pretty much sum up the interesting shorebirds this month. Even where they're common, Black Skimmers cause a stir with their unmistakable darkness, and their long, oddly-shaped orange bills, the lower mandible of which they drag through the water as they "skim" for fish; they're uncommon here and there was a bit of excitement when three showed up this month: one at the mouth of the Pajaro River on the 21st (ELb) and two at Bolinas Lagoon on the 21st and 22nd (KH, mob).

Our usual swift is the White-throated, but come spring we get small numbers of Black which breed along the coast and Vaux's which migrate through and on the 17th there was a single Chimney Swift at Point Reyes (RS). Hummingbirds reported included Black-chinned, Costa's, Calliope and Rufous. There were Hammond's, Dusky and Gray Flycatchers in the Bay Area along with Eastern Phoebe at Mono Lake (DP, JP fide ES) and Manteca (DGY); and two Eastern Kingbirds at Point Reyes (TEa, MNo, mob) and one at Big Sur (fide RC). A Townsend's Solitaire on Mt. Diablo on the 4th (KGH) had found the wrong montane area—they're

more usual in the high Sierra. There was a Brown Thrasher on SE Farallon on the 19th (fide KH). In the spring, **Yellow-throated Vireo** tends to be a one-day wonder: see it the day it arrives or forget it; but the individual that showed up at Point Reyes on the 17th obligingly remained until the 23rd, to the joy of many (RS, mob). On the 23rd a Red-eyed Vireo was also present there (RS).

Obviously there were warblers, but it's a slim list for May:

WARBLERS

TENNESSEE WARBLER

2	5/23	Point Reyes	AME, TEa, ES, RS BS fide RSTh SRo
1	5/15	San Mateo Coast	
1	5/25	Mountain View	

NASHVILLE WARBLER

2	5/1	Mt. Diablo	LLu
1	5/16	Mt. St. Helena	BDP
1	5/23	San Mateo Coast	BS fide RSTh

NORTHERN PARULA

1	5/1	Lee Vining	DWh
5 total	5/15-30	Point Reyes	RS, mob
7 total	5/19-31	San Mateo County	RSTh, PJM, MiF
1	5/22	Caswell State Park	DGY

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

1	5/29	Mt. Tamalpais	DWt
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MAGNOLIA WARBLER

1,1	5/16,23	Point Reyes	TEa, AME, ES, RS BS fide RSTh
1	5/25	El Granada	

HERMIT WARBLER

7	5/1	Mt. Diablo	LLu
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HERMIT X TOWNSEND'S WARBLER

1	5/2	San Benito County	DSg
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BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER

1	5/16	Point Reyes	TEa
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YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

1	5/19	Gazos Creek Rd.	RSTh
1	5/22	Pt. Bonita	GHg

PALM WARBLER

1	5/1	Point Reyes	SBT
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BAY-BREASTED WARBLER

1	5/23	SE Farallon	fide PP
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BLACKPOLL WARBLER

1,1	5/21-24, 23	Point Reyes	RS, TEa, mob
1,1	5/25,31	San Mateo Coast	BS, RSTh

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER

1	5/15	Gazos Creek Rd.	DPo
1	5/17-20	Point Reyes	RS,JM,GG
1	5/12	SE Farallon	fide PP

AMERICAN REDSTART

1	5/23	Point Reyes	TEa,
1	5/23	SE Farallon	fide PP

OVENBIRD

1,1	5/23,24	Point Reyes	TEa, JM
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NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH

1	5/2-3	Coyote Creek	fide SBT
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HOODED WARBLER

1	5/3-4	Tilden Park	WGi
1	5/23-24	Coyote Creek	JBu, RCo, SBT

Ten Yellow-breasted Chats, those big, colorful, loud and unwarbler-like warblers were scattered from Sonoma County to Watsonville Slough. Summer Tanagers were reported from Bolinas (PP) and Big Sur (fide RC). There was a total of nine Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, five Blue Grosbeaks and two Indigo Buntings during the month. The usual small numbers of Black-chinned, Sage and Grasshopper Sparrows were reported, along with a Black-throated Sparrow on SE Farallon on the 11th (fide PP) and a Harris' Sparrow in Redding on the 8th (BY). Reports of nesting Great-tailed Grackle in Fresno (four to five pairs with five chicks) (DW) signifies a significant range expansion for this bird which seems to occupy the same niche through much of its range as Brewer's Blackbird does here. There were two Red Crossbills at Point Reyes on the 22nd (JM) and an Evening Grosbeak in San Francisco on the 10th (ASH).

OBSERVERS: Scott Anderson, William G. Bousman, Joella Buffa, Rita Caratello, Rita Colwell, David DeSante, Todd Easterla, Alan M. Eisner, Carter L. Faust, Leora R. Feeney, Mike Feighner, William Gilbert, George Griffith, Keith Hansen, W. Edward Harper, Totten Heffelfinger, Kevin G. Hints, Bob Hirt, Elina Holst, Alan S. Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Theodore H. Koundakjian, Earl Lebow, Les Lieurance, Mary Mayer, Robert Mayer, John McKean, Peter J. Metropulos, Joe Morlan, Mary

Nordstrom, D. Parker, J. Parker, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Dave Powell, Peter Pyle, Mike M. Rogers, Steve Rotterborn, Barry Sauppe, Dan Singer, Rich Stallcup, Emilie Strauss, Scott B. Terrill, Ronald S. Thorn, David Weintraub (DWt), David Wharton, Brian Williams, Don Winton, David G. Yee, Bob Yutzy. Data thanks to Joe Morlan and the Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

—ANN DEWART

SOUTH YUBA INDEPENDENCE TRAIL

Access into the wilderness by physically disabled visitors is rare in this world. Work done in 1859 by immigrant laborers has resulted in a pre-engineered accessway which is both safe and exciting. In that year, an aquaduct five feet in width was built to carry water from the South Yuba River in Nevada County to the hydraulic mines of Smartsville 25 miles away. While it traversed steep hill-sides, the Excelsior Canal followed a contour and was virtually level. It affords a perfect opportunity for access to nature for everyone without negotiating grades. The stone levee now has wildflowers, ferns and small creatures living in the nooks and crannies at lap level of a visitor in a wheelchair.

Over the years, John Olmstead, the steadfast father of the project, has raised funds and organized volunteers to transform the abandoned water ditch into a magnificent trail accessible to everyone, including visitors in wheelchairs. Extensive efforts by volunteers rebuilt crumbling wooden flumes and cleared debris which had accumulated over the years.

Extraordinary accomplishments were achieved by the California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs, Pacific Bell Telephone Pioneers, and the Pacifica High School Environmental

Education Project. Today, working closely with the California Park Service, a non-profit group, Sequoia Challenge, is responsible for annual maintenance of the trail. The cooperation between the public and private sectors has meant a vast effort which would never have happened otherwise. Park Service efforts resulted in recent grants for the construction of wooden flumes to carry people across the side ravines and to skirt the flanks of granite slopes. Sequoia Challenge organizes work parties to remove debris and open new segments of the trail. Where practical, a wheelchair width trail is also maintained along the levee with ramps up to it and railings where required. This gives visitors an option of either pathway.

In 1985 Sequoia Challenge rebuilt Flume #28 with no government funds, adding the amazing switchbacks leading to the water in 1988. Here, at the end of a one-mile trail are streamside adventures, a fishing platform, covered lunch spot, a large picnic/camping deck, great views and an outhouse.

The trail is six miles north of Nevada City on Hwy. 49 near Mile Marker 21.19. Please use the main trail entrance and underpass, which leads one mile west to the waterfall. Disability visitors please call in advance (916) 272-3459) for trail conditions. Arrangements can be made for a trained docent to accompany groups. School groups need a reservation, whether a docent is required or not. Call (916) 477-1923.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This trail reminds me of a recent episode that illustrates the rewards and satisfactions of serving the Audubon cause as a volunteer. Our Papagena, Mrs. Muriel Leff, founder of the Papagena Project, called to bring us up-to-date on her efforts to place bird

feeders in nursing homes, hospices, and with the home-bound. She has fifty which she and her volunteers are serving. Incidentally, she mentioned that she had had a request for field trip experience for people in wheelchairs, and wondered whether something might be organized. At the next meeting of the GGAS board I reported her suggestion. Instantly a board member offered, not to take on the responsibility, but to explore the idea and bring in a proposal for early board consideration. The responsiveness of the board members to this and other similar matters really makes membership in GGAS and service on its board gratifying.

—DON SANFORD

LETTER

Peradam Foundation
Berkeley

Dear Mr. Margolin,

The Peradam Foundation is pleased to donate one thousand dollars in support of tax deductible activities of the Golden Gate Audubon Society. A check in that amount is enclosed with this letter.

Peradam, a small private foundation concerned primarily with environmental issues, appreciates the Society's excellent program of public activities and conservation programs. Each issue of *The GULL*—which by the way, is one of the best produced local newsletters we know of—demonstrates the interconnection between birding and larger ecological concerns. By introducing school children, and the general public, to the wildlife that surrounds them, you help build the environmental awareness so essential for the well-being of the planet.

Naturally, we would be interested in hearing about the progress of your programs. We hope that they flourish and expand in the years ahead. Keep up the good work.

ANITA HOLMGREN
Secretary

THE GATEWAY VALLEY

The following is reprinted from *THE GOLDEN EAGLE*, a monthly newsletter published by "Save Open Space," a volunteer organization in Orinda that is dedicated to preserving 978 acres in Gateway Valley as open space. A developer, Pacific New Wave (PNW), purchased the property and plans to replace much of the wildlife habitat with 86 multi-family dwellings, 185 houses, a 260 room hotel/conference center, an 18-hole golf course, and many other "amenities."

DEVELOPER TEES OFF WITH A PHONY CLUB

At the Orinda City Council meeting on Feb. 24, the spokesman for PNW said, during his presentation, "We will also be working with the Audubon Society of New York State to qualify for their Signature Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Under this progressive worldwide program we will be adhering to Audubon Sustainable Resource Management principles as a guiding document for our project." Sounds impressive, doesn't it? But—The National Audubon Society does not run any such program, and does not review golf courses to determine if they are environmentally sound. To the contrary, their position has been that golf courses in general cause environmental problems.

A few years ago an opportunist from back east, named Ronald G. Dodson, realized that there was money to be made if an environmental program for golf courses could be sold to developers. For his plan to succeed he needed an organization with a credible name, so he named his enterprise the Audubon Society of New York State. To be registered and certified as "environmentally sound" and a "Cooperative Sanctuary" a golf course manager needs simply to send \$100 to the "Audubon Society of New York

State, Inc.," and fill in a simple survey form about the golf course. Then, to stay in the program the owner must send in an annual fee of \$100.

If PNW was genuinely concerned about the environment, and sincerely interested in working with Audubon, it would have been logical for them to have contacted the National Audubon Society or one of its local chapters, but they did not! Instead, PNW chose to get involved with this Audubon facade 3,000 miles away.

According to an article in *Golf Journal* (Aug. 1992) the Audubon Society of New York State has received substantial funds from the United States Golf Association, initially \$30,000 in 1990, and \$100,000 in 1992. Other sources report that the organization now has funding assurance of one million dollars over three years from the USGA. That, plus the \$100 fee per course (and there are more than 14,000 golf courses in the U.S.) makes the potential of Mr. Dodson's operation pretty lucrative. By joining it, PNW planned to capitalize on the name of Audubon and, for a price, get the answers they wanted to hear. But in the end the price would be paid by the loss of wildlife in Gateway Valley, and by the people of Orinda who were duped.

Mr. Dodson might be getting wealthy with contributions from the USGA, the PGA Tours, the American Society of Golf Course Architects, and other golfing organizations that support him, as well as membership fees from developers like PNW, but do not let him use Gateway Valley's golden eagles to feather his nest.

—RUSS WILSON

UPDATE—By a 3 to 2 vote the Orinda City Council has approved the development plan. The Save Open Space Committee is preparing a referendum ballot to oppose the project.

CONSERVATION NOTES

SACRAMENTO RIVER ISSUES

(Thanks to the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.)

Congress is again considering how much money will be budgeted to purchase important wildlife habitat and recreational lands along the Sacramento River. Congressional redistricting (Rep. Vic Fazio now represents people from Tehama to Yolo, along the Sacramento River) and two new Senators from California (Senator Feinstein is on the Appropriations Committee) mean new opportunities for acquisition of essential riparian habitat along the River.

The Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge

Less than 2% of the original riparian habitat along the River exists today. As

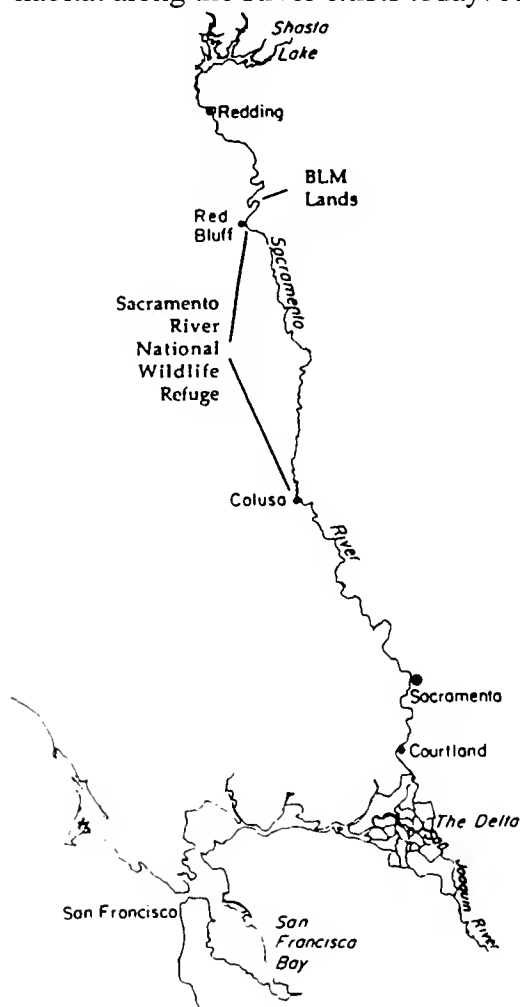
it meanders through the wide Sacramento Valley, the remaining riparian and associated aquatic community offers habitat for at least eight threatened and endangered species, including winter run chinook salmon, Bald Eagle, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Swainson's Hawk, Bank Swallow, giant garter snake and California hibiscus. In addition, the riparian forests along the river offer excellent habitat for a wider diversity of other species, including Osprey, Great Blue Heron, cormorant, Great Horned Owl, river otter, muskrat, raccoon, deer and numerous cold and warm water fish species.

Conversion to agricultural and urban uses has been the primary cause of decline in riparian acreage. Clearing of vegetation to facilitate riprapping of the river banks has also contributed to habitat loss. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that establishment of the refuge will not conflict with flood control operations.

The Service is authorized to purchase up to 18,000 acres along the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Colusa to establish the Refuge in Colusa, Glenn, Butte and Tehama Counties. Conservationists are proposing \$10 million for land acquisition in 1994. The Service has identified seven parcels, a total of 3,343 acres for 1994. In 1995, the Service intends to develop a management plan, including visitor recreation and interpretation.

Sacramento River BLM Lands

Upstream of Red Bluff, the character of the Sacramento River changes dramatically. The River has cut a shallow canyon rimmed with volcanic rock through the gently rolling, oak covered hills. This 25-mile segment from Red Bluff to Balls Ferry has been determined to be eligible for National Wild & Scenic River status due to its



outstanding fishery, economic, scenic and recreational values.

It is the primary spawning area for all runs of Sacramento River salmon, including the threatened winter run. The River supports the largest salmon fishery in the state, contributing more than \$100 million annually to the commercial and sport fishing industry.

Riparian habitats provide critical areas for a wide variety of wildlife and vernal pools adjacent to the River provide habitat for five sensitive plant species as well as migrating waterfowl, including the rare Sandhill Crane. The blue oak woodland is an important example of a rapidly disappearing plant community.

WHAT NEEDS DOING:

Letters to your Representative and to the two Senators are of critical importance now. Support is needed for Land and Water Conservation Fund budget items for the Sacramento River, specifically: \$10 million for the Sacramento National River Wildlife Refuge to acquire riparian habitat for endangered species and \$6 million for BLM acquisition upstream of Red Bluff for fish, Wildlife and recreation purposes. Note that all acquisitions are on a willing seller basis and are supported by a wide variety of public interests, anglers, boaters, hunters, resource professionals and environmentalists.

For further information write the Sacramento River Preservation Trust, P.O. Box 5366, Chico, CA 95927.

BACK YARD BIRDER

Getting out of your own back yard and into the field keeps your birding skills sharp. When you know, or THINK you know, all the feathered beauties in your environs by sight and sound, it's easy to dismiss that blue blur as just another jay. But it just might be a new visitor you didn't bother to check out.

Recently we were birding that wonderful Mines Road area of Livermore

when a flash of orange and black made us gasp "oriole!" He conveniently perched on a wire fence so we could admire him. I'm not as sharp at identifying orioles since I've never had one in my yard, but my friend realized this was not a Northern Oriole, our most common summer visitor. Sure enough, it was a Hooded Oriole, lacking a black cap and white wing patches. It was a life bird for me! It wasn't really hooded but had a black throat. Later we also had good views of the Northern Oriole for comparison.

On a business trip to the Napa Valley, I escaped to Lake Hennessey for a morning of wildflower and bird watching. It was a quiet day with a threat of rain so I was able to drive slowly. Atop a tall Coulter pine that had lost its crown was a huge Osprey nest complete with adult bent over feeding young. Soon the other parent arrived carrying what must have been a rat. Although they prefer fish, when feeding hungry chicks any kind of protein will do! It will take many forays for food before the 2-4 (usually 3) young will take their first flights—up to 59 days. Then begins the process of learning to fend for themselves. On a trip to Mendocino we saw 16 Osprey at one time, wheeling above the mouth of the Big River. We surmised that many of them were young since they seemed to be practicing diving into the surf. They appeared clumsy in their efforts to become airborne again and rarely caught anything. There was also a lot of calling and crying between them. Thankfully, this great bird has made a huge comeback from its severe decline due to pesticides! I've spotted nests along Tomales Bay as well. Hooray!

Back in Napa I noticed a heron rookery in the pines next to the osprey nest. There were seven or more Great Blue Herons' nests. As an adult arrived a great clatter arose, greetings with croaks and a clatter of bills. Half-grown

youngsters hunched while waiting for their next meal. Their colors so closely blended with the pine needles that I might have missed them if it weren't for the nearby Osprey nest.

In a quiet bay I found large numbers of Western Grebe shattering the silence with their whistles, squeaks and other odd calls. They must nest here since it was May and they were demonstrating their tricky courtship displays. They use their swan-like necks in a stylized manner, imitating each other. As they faced one another they waved their necks in unison until one of them disappeared underwater, followed by the other. As they popped up they began the ritual anew. Eventually they would swim side by side, pretending to preen until they began a racing display, skittering across the water with wings held rigid, necks arched, propelled by their feet alone. Almost upright, they dashed along, making quite a commotion. Surely the fishermen couldn't miss this exciting display.

There are many levels to the enjoyment of birding. There is the thrill of a beautiful song, the flash of color on a sunny day, the energy of a falcon's flight, the laziness of a soaring vulture. Sometimes you see a bit of bird behavior you'd only read about or maybe you identify a new bird species for your list. No matter where you are, there are birds to be seen and heard. So, keep your eyes on the sky, in the trees, on the wires and fence posts and on land and water.

—MEG PAULETICH

SAFARI *(continued from page 110)*

you may see 100 species in a single morning! What makes viewing especially exciting is that African birds are among the most colorful and easily identified birds in the world—making Kenya a bird watcher's paradise!

We plan to go in July or August of 1994 which is the ideal time of year. We

have excellent chances of catching the wildebeest migration in the Masai Mara, the rains are over so birds and animals concentrate around sources of water making them easy to spot. It is also the coolest time of year in Kenya. Areas in Kenya to be visited include the North and South Coast, Tsavo, Amboseli, Samburu, the Aberderes, Lake Naivasha, the Masai Mara and Nairobi. We would like to have your input on which date within this time period would be best for you. To get more information, and let us know your preferences, please call Marcia or Tasha at Park East Tours: 1-800-223-6078.

A small percentage of each person's costs will go to support Golden Gate Audubon's conservation and education programs.

Join us, have a wonderful trip and support your GGAS Chapter.

SAN FRANCISCO FALL BIRDING CLASSES

Evening bird classes taught by **Joe Morlan** will be starting September 8, 9 and 14. All classes meet 7-9:30 p.m. in room 222, Marina Middle School, 3500 Fillmore at Bay St. Free parking is in the school lot off Bay St. on the east side of building.

The instructor is co-author of *Birds of Northern California* and compiler of the recorded "Northern California Rare Bird Alert" sponsored by Golden Gate Audubon Society. Slides illustrate all classes and the text for all classes is *A Field Guide to Birds of North America*, second edition, by the National Geographic Society.

Field Ornithology I meets on Tuesdays. It is an introduction to birds and birding, combining basic field skills with study of bird ecology, biology and behavior. Part A starts September 14 and ends October 26; Part B starts November 2 and ends December 14.

Field Ornithology II meets on

Wednesdays. It is a continuing in-depth study of the identification and status of North American water birds, including waterfowl, rails and shorebirds. Part A starts September 8 and ends October 20; part B starts October 27 and ends December 15.

Field Ornithology III meets on Thursdays. It is a continuing study of land birds including swallows, jays, wrens and thrushes. Part A starts September 9 and ends October 21; part B starts October 28 and ends December 16.

These classes are endorsed by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. Optional field trips on weekends may be arranged by the instructor. Please bring binoculars and field guides to class if you have them.

Fees are \$65 for each seven-week course. Pre-registration is recommended. For information call the San Francisco City College Continuing Education Office at (415) 367-6514 or (415) 561-1840.

NANCY CONZETT'S BIRDATHON DAY

The Bodega Bay Bushtwits had a most successful Mono Lake Birdathon this weekend. Kelp came along part of the time, too; it was an all-out effort.

On Saturday, the target date, the weather proved to be so abominable during the morning (wind and drenching rain) that Betty and I chose to stay here at Tilt City close to the fire and play Trivial Pursuit and eat ice cream while listening to limbs crashing down in the woods next door. One real biggie sent Kelp cowering in the bathroom, as far from the offending noise as possible.

The third member of our team was so gung-ho that she did face the dreadful elements and got an impressive tally of water and shorebirds, but she also got so thoroughly soaked and chilled that she opted not to join us when we ventured out about 12:30. We, of course, duplicated some of her sightings, but the tide had been better for her, and we later in-

corporated a number of her sightings in our final tally.

(Highlights in parens.) We set out to bird around the harbor (Eared Grebes in breeding plumage), Campbell Cove (Red-necked Grebe, also in fine feather), and Bodega Head (Wandering Tattler). While still windy, cold, drizzly and foggy at the onset, the weather gradually improved. So did our spirits and the number of species seen.

We changed the scenery and possible bird species by driving inland to Bodega where Salmon Creek Rd. was in the throes of spring glory and freshness after the storm.

At our first stop, we admired Wild Turkeys displaying and Violet-green Swallows skimming the field. The first Black-headed Grosbeak either of us had seen or heard this year was part way along the road, its multi-tonal bubbling song one of pure joy. And imagine our feelings when a Golden Eagle soared overhead!

We were up to something around 70 species, and I began to realize how hard and tiring it would be to add further species. But Salmon Creek Rd. had again restored my tired legs and sagging eyeballs.

At 5:30, I suggested that we drive to Sebastopol and look around the Community Center. The Laguna de Santa Rosa runs to its east and there are water treatment ponds to the north; the place is very birdy. Betty eagerly agreed.

Just about the first bird Betty found was a very cooperative Lincoln's Sparrow; the next being one of my favorite birds... a Green-backed Heron. Not only was it very close, it was in its most handsome breeding plumage. We also added other swallow species to our list.

Heading northeast on High School Rd., we scoped a number of Cattle Egrets near a dairy, and at the bridge at High School and Occidental Rds., literally hundreds of Cliff Swallows rounded

up insects in aerial flight. Most impressive!

On Sunday, all three of us were off at 8 a.m., trying to salvage our truncated Birdathon. We heard a Black Rail call twice at the marsh at Doran Park(!) before driving down to Valley Ford, where we turned onto Dillon Beach Rd. and found nice birds and sights along that and Middle Rd.

Notes I made read: "Sounds! as well as lack of noise. Warm sun and breeze; lovely drifting clouds. Glow of Cinnamon Teal. Washes of buttercups and goldfields on green carpets. Wheezy call of Savannah Sparrow. 'Too-too-too' cry of Greater Yellowlegs, so elegant in their breeding plumage. Looping soar of Black-shouldered Kite (being attacked by blackbirds). Vista of rural back road, small village, crisp buildings."

A rare sparrow, a Clay-colored, native to eastern U.S., had been found in north-Petaluma earlier in the week. It would be a life bird for two in our group, including me. Let's go for it, we said! Maybe we'll find that missing Loggerhead Shrike along the way.

We had to wait about 20 minutes at the spot along a private road before we heard the very distinctly insect-like trill of the sparrow's song, and the sound was directly above us in the cypress!

The bird was nicely seen by two of the Bushtwits, but my view was too obscured to be able to list the bird as a lifer. Nevertheless, it was a great way to end, or nearly end, the Birdathon.

We saw a Eurasian Wigeon at the stock pond east of Bodega on the way back to Tilt City, and added a few more species to our list here in the yard.

As we made our final tally of species seen, we pined over those NOT seen in the habitats we'd covered where they should have been present. A few of those included; Brown Pelican, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawk, Virginia Rail, Acorn Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Brown Creeper, that danged Loggerhead Shrike, Purple Finch...

Our final count was 123 species, making it surely one of the best, if not THE best Mono Lake Birdathon I've ever participated in. What began as a washout on Saturday, ended with smiles and sunshine on Sunday afternoon.

Thanks to all those who sponsored the Bodega Bay Bushtwits! and LONG LIVE MONO LAKE!!!

The Bodega Bay Bushtwits, aka Betty Burridge, Nancy Conzett and Kelp, and someone who prefers her name not to be in print.

NEWS FROM OUR RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch (415) 868-9244

Shoreline Hwy., Stinson Beach, CA 94970

Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies

Gary Holloway, President

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THE SEASON AT BOLINAS LAGOON

July 18, marks the end of our public season at the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. Don't miss your chance to see the young Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets take a crash course in avian aviation.

You don't need to spend the whole day watching the fledgling follies. Take a break from summer heat by hiking one

— CONTRIBUTORS —

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY THANKS THE GENEROUS DONORS who responded to our January letter. Funds continue to come in. The funds received will be judiciously expended to advance the efforts indicated in the letter.

Mr. & Mrs. Walter Capp
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or both of our 3-mile loop trails. They are lightly traveled and offer the opportunity to experience a bit of the wilderness solitude many of us seek. Each includes just a touch of oaks, redwoods, chaparral and grasslands.

ACR's officers and directors would like to thank all those who made this another wonderfully successful public season. Thanks to our Ranch Guides, those volunteers who helped with interpretation at the overlook and at the ponds. We would like to thank the volunteer hosts who greeted our weekend visitors. Thanks to our devoted staff for all they did to make the public season a successful one. Finally, thanks to you for visiting the Ranch and for your support of our programs.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

"Docent Training at Bouverie"

September marks the beginning of our next docent training class at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve. Our BAP Docents not only lead visiting school children through the preserve, they also lead adults on guided nature walks throughout the year. The class will last through the fall and winter so trainees can join this docent training class please call us at (707) 938-4554.

"Tomales Bay Shorebird Counts"

We have openings for experienced

birders to help us monitor shorebird populations at Tomales Bay. You should have an elementary knowledge of shorebird identification. August marks the beginning our count period and we hope you will be able to join us for at least one weekday count. Call John Kelly at Cypress Grove Preserve for times, dates and further information, (415) 663-8203.

NATURAL HISTORY EDUCATION:

"Local Ecology and Natural History" at Bolinas, Cypress Grove and Bouverie Sanctuaries during the week of July 19-23 with John Kelly, John Petersen and Ray Peterson (\$195). This is the widely acclaimed annual program for teachers which will help you make natural history an integral part of your science program. The fee includes 3 semester units. You'll get to explore all three ACR preserves and meet other dedicated teachers. Call Edris at (415) 868-9244 to register.

"Guided Nature Walks at Bouverie" will begin again on Saturday, September 25. Join a BAP Docent for this opportunity to discover the Bouverie Preserve. Applications for this walk will be accepted after August 1. Call (707) 938-4554 to reserve your place or to learn about other activities at BAP.

—DAN MURPHY

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

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FOR WETLANDS

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The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.



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